
Education and Training

DISAM Mobile Education Team to the Slovak Republic

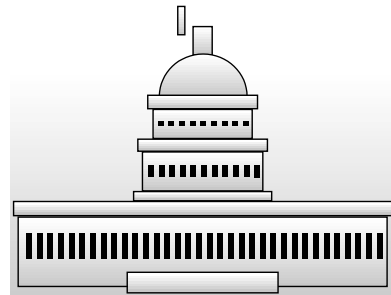
By

**Ms. Virginia Caudill,
DISAM Mobile Education Team Chief**

The DISAM Foreign Purchaser Course (SAM-F) was conducted in Bratislava, Slovakia, at the Ministry of Defense, September 13-23, 1999. The DISAM team was led by Ms. Virginia Caudill, Director of Management Studies, and included DISAM associate professors Major Joanne Hawkins, USA, and Mr. Don Crigger. The security assistance officer in Slovakia, Major Courtney Paul, USA, arranged for the MET using IMET funds, and did all the preliminary arrangements prior to the team's arrival. As a result, the facilities in the Ministry of Defense were excellent and included audio visual equipment and booths for simultaneous translation.

Legislatíva týkajúca sa pomoci v oblasti bezpečnosti

- **Zákon o kontrole vývozu zbraní (AECA)
z r. 1976**
- **Zákon o zahraničnej pomoci
(FAA) z r. 1961**



There was an effective mix of students in the class, both military and civilians, primarily from the Directorate of Acquisition, but also including participants from the Test and Evaluation Section, the Logistics Section, and the Army Staff and the Section for Foreign Relations. Other students were from the Office of Information, and the Topographic Institute which currently has an FMS case with National Imagery and Mapping Agency. Major Paul had arranged for the class material and the viewgraphs to be translated in advance. It was an unusual experience to be teaching in English while showing a viewgraph written in Slovak, and the instructors occasionally had to step back and make sure they were in the right place. The professional interpreters did an excellent job of keeping both the students and the faculty in direct communication.

The Director of Acquisition, Ing. Peter Harustiak, opened the class and challenged the students to participate fully. He recognized the need for this course and stressed the importance of changes that are being enacted within the defense establishment in order to meet the goal of eventual Slovak membership in NATO. Mr. Harustiak was unable to attend the class, so arrangements were made for a DISAM/SAO one day special tutorial that was well received. Ms. Caudill and Major Paul spent a full day with Mr. Harustiak and his deputy for FMS, pplk.Ing. Pavel Macko, reviewing the laws, policies, process, acquisition, logistics and financial management for security assistance programs. The team approach was particularly effective because the SAO was able to relate the instruction directly to the Slovakian programs and goals.



DISAM faculty members Major Joanne Hawkins, Don Crigger, and Virginia Caudill with their Slovak host, Lieutenant Colonel Dusan Kusenda.

Major Paul further augmented the instruction by providing a lecture on the role of the SAO, and explaining his office set-up and functions. In addition, on the next-to-last day of the course, he presented a mini case review for the students to show the current program levels. At the request of Mr. Harustiak, DISAM also incorporated a presentation by Colonel Macko to show the pending reorganization of the MOD and incorporation of the FMS programs into a program management office. The students appreciated this information, and it was a fitting tie-in at the end of the class to show how both countries are working together to have a successful partnership.

Mr. Harustiak presided over the graduation and was pleased at the favorable reaction of the students to the DISAM course. He cautioned them to remain flexible and patient with the many changes that are occurring within the MOD and expressed his desires to develop an effective long-term relationship with the U.S. through the security assistance program.



Director of Acquisition Peter Harustiak shows the DISAM memento to his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Pavel Macko and the U.S. security assistance officer, Major Courtney Paul.